

**A PROCLAMATION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATORS GRANT, MARINELLI, MAZUR, MILLS, HOGUES, HARDWICK,
LOUGHRAN, RATH, McCRACKEN, DIXON & LORIGO**

RE: Congratulating The Binational Alliance on the 10th Anniversary of Doors Open Niagara and the Launch of the War of 1812 Binational Heritage Peace Garden Trail

WHEREAS, The Binational Alliance (BTA) is dedicated to eliminating barriers to cross-border tourism and economic development between the United States and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the BTA accomplishes its mission through advocacy, professional development, networking and information sharing; and

WHEREAS, Erie County is privileged to be home to the American headquarters of the BTA, which is housed at the ECIDA offices; and

WHEREAS, a seminal accomplishment of the BTA is Doors Open Niagara, the first binational "Doors Open" project in the world, which is now celebrating its 10th anniversary; and

WHEREAS, Doors Open Niagara affords residents of and visitors to the Niagara Region of Ontario, as well as Erie and Niagara Counties in New York State, the opportunity to view sites that are historically and architecturally significant, many of which are normally not open to the public, and admission to these sites is free of charge during Doors Open weekend; and

WHEREAS, this year's theme, "The Art of Architecture" invites the public to discover art in and around these important heritage sites; and

WHEREAS, the 35 participating sites include elegant residences and inns, churches featuring magnificent stained glass windows, Industrial Age factories, municipal buildings, museums, schoolhouses and sites that played a role in the Underground Railroad; and

WHEREAS, a wide variety of architectural styles are represented, including 18th and early 19th century stone and log structures, homes and buildings crafted in the Victorian, Neo-Classical, Art Deco, Italianate and Greek Revival styles, and churches of Romanesque and Gothic Revival design; and

WHEREAS, this year's Doors Open includes commemorating the 1812 Bicentennial through the launch of the Binational Heritage Peace Garden Trail, a special component of the binational tourism offerings the weekend of June 15-17, 2012.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature pause in its deliberations to congratulate The Binational Alliance on the 10th Anniversary of Doors Open Niagara and the launch of the Binational Heritage Peace Garden Trail; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Honorable Body further recognize the Bicentennial of the War of 1812 and the nearly two centuries of peace that have come to represent the friendly, enduring American and Canadian relationship.